

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

### Listing of the Claims:

Following is a listing of all claims in the present application, which listing supersedes all previously presented claims:

1-4 (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A distributed processing system comprising:  
at least one server; and  
a plurality of clients linked in series, wherein the plurality of clients are linked to the at least one server, and the at least one server collects transaction history data of the plurality of clients and performs aggregation of categories of the data collected when the at least one server is operable,

wherein at least one of said clients is operable in standalone fashion and has server functionality so that it executes processing of application ~~or applications~~ installed therein in response to requests issued by other clients and outputs the results of the processing to said clients that issued such requests, and operates as a back-up server to the at least one server with regard to the rest of the plurality of clients when the at least one server goes down,

wherein said distributed system is a POS system, and

wherein said installed application is a POS application which executes at least one of product registration, product search, transaction aggregation per transaction, tax aggregation per transaction, discount per target product, designation of payment

method, settlement, transaction history registration and operator authentication and registration.

6. (Cancelled)